

V. REMARKS

The Office Action indicates that the certified copies of the Japanese priority documents have not been filed. A Claim for Priority along with the certified copies of the Japanese priority documents had been filed with United States Patent and Trademark Office on July 9, 2003.

Drawing Figure 7 is objected to because it should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". A replacement sheet of a formal corrected Drawing Figure 7 is filed herewith to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action requires a new title of the invention that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. As indicated above, the title is changed to "Pneumatic Tire with Puncture Prevention Layer in Tire Inner Surface" as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dobson (U.S. Patent No. 4,919,183) or, alternatively Hurt (U.S. Patent No. 2,925,846). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As clearly defined in claim 1, the present invention according to claim 1 is directed to "a pneumatic tire comprising an adhesive composition layer fabricated from an adhesive composition containing a plurality of bubbles and disposed as a puncture prevention layer in a tire inner surface".

In contrast to the above, according to Dobson (US Patent 4,919,183), a composite 5 is arranged on a tire inner surface as puncture prevention layer as seen from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. The composite 5 comprises a rubber coverstrip 7 containing a sealant, and the rubber coverstrip 7 in which fiber is mingled has an open network structure 6.

According to Hurt (US Patent 2,925,846), then, a sponge neoprene or sponge rubber layer 13 containing a sealing fluid is arranged as puncture prevention layer on a tire inner surface as seen from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

Thus, according to the prior art, the puncture prevention layer is formed by or with a foam body impregnated with an adhesive composition as opposed to the applicants' claim 1 of the invention, according to which the puncture prevention layer is formed by or with an adhesive composition containing a large number of bubbles.

To form a puncture prevention layer with an adhesive composition containing a large number of bubbles is more advantageous than to form the puncture prevention layer with a foam body impregnated with an adhesive composition with respect to the following points (1) and (2) set forth below.

(1) Now that the composition contains a large number of bubbles and, in addition, that a foam body is not used, it is possible to attain a greater extent of reduction of the tire weight.

(2) Now that the adhesive composition can easily enter a puncture hole, it is possible to provide an exceeding sealing performance.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach an adhesive composition layer fabricated from an adhesive composition containing a plurality of bubbles as recited in claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that, to the contrary, the applied art teaches open cell structures such as foam rubber or sponge formed with fibers defining interstitial space therebetween. It is respectfully submitted that such interstitial space cannot be construed as "bubbles". As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 is canceled and therefore the rejection is applied to claim 2 is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 12-20 also include features not shown in the applied art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or

if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): One (1) Replacement Sheet of Drawing Figure 7

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